AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (currently amended): A content distribution method comprising ~~the steps of~~ :

measuring a first biometric feature of a person who requests a content distribution;

performing a first comparison between first information associated with said first biometric feature obtained by the measurement and second information associated with biometric features of registered users which have been previously registered;

distributing a content ~~only~~ when a_match is made as a result of said first comparison;

measuring at the time of reproduction of the content distributed in said content distribution ~~step~~, a second biometric feature of a person who requests a content reproduction;

performing a second comparison between third information associated with said second biometric feature obtained by the measurement and said first information; and

allowing said person who has requested a content reproduction to use said content ~~only~~ when a_match is made as a result of said second comparison.

2.   (currently amended): A content distribution method according to claim 1, wherein said

content distributed to a user terminal includes <u>at least one of</u> music data, software for <u>a</u> video

game, application software, and news items.

3.   (original): A content distribution method according to claim 1, wherein a fingerprint is

used as said biometric feature.

4.   (currently amended): A content distribution method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

registering ~~specific~~ personal information, a user identification, and biometric feature

information regarding a user, in a registered user information table by making a connection there

between;

obtaining a user identification of a person who requests a content distribution and

attaining from said registered user information table <u>a</u> first biometric feature information of said

person based upon said user identification;

measuring biometric features of said person and obtaining from said biometric feature

second biometric feature information;

performing a comparison between said second biometric feature information and said

first biometric feature information read from said registered user information table; and

distributing a required content only when <u>a</u> match is made as a result of said comparison.

5.   (currently amended): A content distribution method according to claim 4, further

comprising ~~the steps of~~:

        measuring at the time of reproduction of the content distributed in said content

distribution step, a biometric feature of a person who requests a content reproduction and

attaining from said biometric feature third biometric feature information;

        performing a comparison between said third biometric feature information and said

second biometric feature information; and

        allowing said person who has requested a content reproduction to use said content only

when a match is made as a result of said comparison.

6.   (currently amended): A content distribution method according to claim 5, wherein said

content distributed to a user terminal includes <u>at least one of</u> music data, software for <u>a</u> video

game, application software, and news items.

7.   (original): A content distribution method according to claim 5, wherein a fingerprint is

used as said biometric feature.

8.   (currently amended): A content distribution method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

        distributing a content to a user terminal and accumulating the content therein;

measuring at the time of reproduction of said accumulated content, a biometric feature of

a person who requests a content reproduction;

performing a comparison between biometric feature information associated with said

biometric feature obtained by the measurement and biometric feature information of a registered

user which has previously been registered; and

allowing reproduction of said content only when a match is made as a result of said

comparison.

9.   (currently amended): A content distribution method according to claim 8, further

comprising: a step of

restricting by a content distribution server, kinds of content to be distributed to said user

terminal.

10.   (currently amended): A content distribution method according to claim 8, further

comprising:

a step of transmitting to a content distribution server content utilization information including at

least specific information regarding a person who has reproduced the content and information

regarding said reproduced content.

11.   (currently amended): A content distribution method according to claim 10, further

comprising: a step of charging the user who has reproduced the content or providing a personal

service for the user, according to said content utilization information sent to said content

distribution server.

12.   (currently amended): A content distribution method according to claim 11, wherein said

content distributed to a user terminal includes <u>at least one of</u> music data, software for <u>a</u> video

game, application software, and news items.

13.   (original): A content distribution method according to claim 11, wherein a fingerprint is

used as said biometric feature.

14.   (currently amended): A content distribution method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

        connecting a portable user terminal to a shared service terminal which is connected via a

network to a content distribution server, so as to input from a biometric feature input means

equipped in said portable user terminal a biometric feature of a user who uses said portable user

terminal;

        performing a predetermined encryption processing on biometric feature information

associated with said biometric feature inputted from said means;

        transmitting said encrypted biometric feature information to said content distribution

server via said shared service terminal;

        performing a predetermined decryption procession on said encrypted biometric feature

information received by said content distribution server;

performing a comparison between said encrypted biometric feature information and

biometric feature information of a registered user which has previously been registered; and

distributing a content to said shared service terminal only when match is made as a result

of said comparison.

15.   (currently amended): A content distribution method according to claim 14, wherein said

content distributed to said portable user terminal includes at least one of music data, software for

a video game, application software, and news items.

16.   (original): A content distribution method according to claim 14, wherein said biometric

feature information includes information regarding a fingerprint.

17.   (currently amended): A content distribution method comprising: the steps of

registering a user identification to identify a user and biometric feature information of the

user in a registered user information table by making a connection there between, and registering

terminal setup data to personalize a user terminal and said user identification in a terminal

personalization setup data table by making a connection there between;

measuring biometric features of a person who requests a content distribution;

reading a user identification of said person from said registered user information table

according to biometric feature information associated with said biometric feature obtained by

said measurement;

reading terminal setup data regarding said person from said terminal personalization

setup data table, according to said user identification read from said registered user information

table; and

personalizing said user terminal used by said person, according to said terminal setup

data.

18.   (currently amended): A content distribution method according to claim 17, wherein a

content distributed to said user terminal includes at least one of music data, software for video

game, application software, and news items.

19.   (original): A content distribution method according to claim 17, wherein a fingerprint is

used as said biometric feature.

20.   (currently amended): A content distribution method comprising the steps of :

registering a user identification to identify a user, biometric feature information of a user,

a biometric feature identification to identify said biometric feature information, and a terminal

setup data to personalize a user terminal in a terminal personalization setup data table, by making

a connection therebetween;

measuring biometric features of a person who requests a content distribution;

reading a user identification and a biometric feature identification of said person from

said registered user information table, according to biometric feature information associated with

said biometric feature obtained by said measurement;

reading, according to said user identification and biometric feature identification read

from said registered user information table, terminal setup data regarding said person from said

terminal personalization setup data table; and

personalizing a user terminal used by said person, according to said terminal setup data.

21.   (currently amended): A content distribution method according to claim 20, wherein said

content distributed to said user terminal includes at least one of music data, software for a video

game, application software, and news items.

22.   (original): A content distribution method according to claim 20, wherein a fingerprint is

used as said biometric feature.

23.   (currently amended): A content distribution system comprising:

at least one user terminal including a biometric feature input means; and

a content distribution server to which said terminal is connected via a network,

wherein said content distribution server includes including:

a registered user information table in which specific personal information, a user

identification, and biometric feature information regarding a user are registered by making a

connection therebetween, said personal information, user identification, and biometric feature

information being inputted from said user terminal;

first comparing means for reading, according to a user identification of a person who

requests a content distribution inputted from said user terminal, first biometric feature

information of said person from said registered user information table, for requesting said person

to input second biometric feature information, and for performing a comparison between said

second biometric feature information inputted from said user terminal in response to said input

request and said first biometric feature information read from said table; and

content distribution means for distributing a required content to said user terminal only

when match is made as a result of said comparison.

24.   (currently amended): A content distribution system according to claim 23, wherein said

user terminal ~~comprising~~comprises:

biometric feature storage means for storing third biometric feature information of a

registered user inputted at the time of registration to said registered user information table;

content accumulation/reproduction means for accumulating and reproducing a content

distributed from said content distribution means; and

second comparing means for performing a comparison between fourth biometric feature

information of a person who requests a content reproduction which has been inputted from said

biometric feature input means and said third biometric feature information of said registered user

stored in said biometric feature storage means, and for allowing said content

accumulation/reproduction means to reproduce the distributed content only when a match is

made as a result of said comparison.

25. (currently amended): A content distribution system according to claim 24, wherein said

content to be distributed to said user terminal includes at least one of music data, software for a

video game, application software, and news items.

26. (original): A content distribution system according to claim 24, wherein a fingerprint is used

as said biometric feature.

27. (currently amended): A content distribution system comprising:

at least one user terminal including a biometric feature input means; and

a content distribution server to which said terminal is connected via a network,

wherein said user terminal including comprises:

biometric feature storage means for storing first biometric feature information of a

registered user inputted from said biometric feature input means;

content accumulation/reproduction means for accumulating and reproducing a content

distributed from said content distribution means; and

comparing means for performing a comparison between second biometric feature

information of a person who requests a content reproduction inputted from said biometric feature

input means and said first biometric feature information stored in said biometric feature storage

means, and for allowing said content accumulation/reproduction means to reproduce the

distributed content only when match is made as a result of said comparison.

28. (original): A content distribution system according to claim 27, wherein said content

distribution server restricts kinds of content to be distributed to said user terminal.

29.   (original): A content distribution system according to claim 27, wherein said user

terminal transmits to said content distribution server content utilization information including at

least specific information regarding a person who has reproduced the content and information

regarding said reproduced content.

30.   (original): A content distribution system according to claim 29, wherein said content

distribution server charges the user who has reproduced the content or provides a personal

service for the user, according to said content utilization information sent from said user

terminal.

31.   (currently amended): A content distribution system according to claim 30, wherein said

content to be distributed to said user terminal includes <u>at least one of</u> music data, software for <u>a</u>

video game, application software, and news items.

32.   (original): A content distribution system according to claim 30, wherein a fingerprint is

used as said biometric feature.

33.   (currently amended): A content distribution system comprising:

   a content distribution server;

   a shared service terminal connected via a network to said content distribution server; and

   a portable user terminal including a biometric feature input means connectable to said

shared service terminal;

   wherein said portable user terminal performs a predetermined encryption processing on a

user's biometric feature information associated with said biometric feature inputted from said

biometric feature input means and transmits said encrypted biometric feature information to said

content distribution server via said shared service terminal, and

   wherein said content distribution server performs a predetermined decryption processing

on said encrypted biometric feature information received from said portable user terminal via

said shared service terminal, performs a comparison between said encrypted biometric feature

information and biometric feature information of a registered user which has previously been

registered, and distributes a content to said shared service terminal only when match is made as a

result of said comparison.

34.   (currently amended): A content distribution system according to claim 33, wherein said

content to be distributed to said user terminal includes <u>at least one of</u> music data, software for <u>a</u>

video game, application software, and news items.

35.   (original): A content distribution system according to claim 33, wherein said biometric

feature information includes information regarding a fingerprint.

36.   (currently amended): A content distribution system comprising:

        at least one user terminal including a biometric feature input means; and

        a content distribution server to which said terminal is connected via a network,

wherein said content distribution server includes:

        a registered user information table in which a user identification to identify a user and <u>the</u>

user's biometric feature information are registered by making a connection there between, said

user identification and biometric feature information being inputted from said user terminal;

        a terminal personalization setup data table in which terminal setup data to personalize

said user terminal and said user identification are registered by making a connection there

between;

        comparing means for obtaining a user identification of a person who requests a content

distribution from said registered user information table according to biometric feature

information of said person inputted from said user terminal, and for reading, according to said

user identification, terminal setup data regarding said person from said terminal personalization

setup data table; and

terminal personalization designating means for transmitting said terminal setup data read

from said terminal personalization setup data table to said user terminal,

and wherein said user terminal includes:

terminal personalization setup means for personalizing said user terminal according to

said terminal setup data received from said terminal personalization designating means.

37.   (currently amended): A content distribution system according to claim 36, wherein said

content to be distributed to said user terminal includes <u>at least one of</u> music data, software for

video game, application software, and news items.

38.   (original): A content distribution system according to claim 36, wherein said biometric

feature information includes information regarding a fingerprint.

39.   (original): A content distribution system comprising:

at least one user terminal including a biometric feature input means; and

a content distribution server to which said terminal is connected via a network,

wherein said content distribution server includes:

a terminal personalization setup data table in which a user

identification to identify a user, biometric feature information of a user, a biometric feature

identification to identify said biometric feature information, and terminal setup data to

personalize a user terminal are registered by making a connection there between, said user

identification, biometric feature information, biometric feature identification, and terminal setup

data being inputted from said user terminal;

comparing means for obtaining a user identification and biometric feature information of

a person who requests a content distribution from said terminal personalization setup data table

according to biometric feature information of said person inputted from said user terminal, and

for reading, according to said user identification and biometric feature identification, terminal

setup data regarding said person from said terminal personalization setup data table; and

terminal personalization designating means for transmitting said terminal setup data read

from said terminal personalization setup data table to said user terminal,

and wherein said user terminal includes:

terminal personalization setup means for personalizing said user terminal according to

said terminal setup data received from said terminal personalization designating means.

40.   (currently amended): A content distribution system according to claim 39, wherein said

content to be distributed to said user terminal includes at least one of music data, software for a

video game, application software, and news items.

41.   (original): A content distribution system according to claim 39, wherein said biometric

feature information includes information regarding a fingerprint.

42.   (original): A content distribution server to which at least one user terminal is connected

via a network, comprising:

        a registered user information table in which specific personal information, a user

identification, and biometric feature information regarding a user are registered by making a

connection there between, said personal information, user identification, and biometric feature

information being inputted from said user terminal;

        comparing means for reading, according to a user identification of a person who requests

a content distribution inputted from said user terminal, first biometric feature information of said

person from said registered user information table, for requesting said person to input second

biometric feature information, and for performing a comparison between said second biometric

feature information inputted from said user terminal in response to said input request and said

first biometric feature information read from said table; and

        content distribution means for distributing a required content to said user terminal only

when match is made as a result of said comparison.

43.   (original): A content distribution server according to claim 42, further comprising means

for restricting kinds of content to be distributed to said user terminal.

44.   (original): A content distribution server according to claim 42, further comprising a user

utilization information administration means for charging the user who has reproduced the

content or for providing a personal service for the user, according to content utilization

information sent from said user terminal.

45.   (currently amended): A content distribution server according to claim 42, wherein said

content distributed to said portable user terminal includes at least one of music data, software for

a video game, application software, and news items.

46.   (original): A content distribution server according to claim 42, wherein said biometric

feature information includes information regarding a fingerprint.

47.   (currently amended): A content distribution server to which at least one user terminal is

connected via a network, comprising:

        a registered user information table in which a user identification to identify a user and the

user's biometric feature information are registered by making a connection there between, said

user identification and biometric feature information being inputted from said user terminal;

        a terminal personalization setup data table in which terminal setup data to personalize

said user terminal and said user identification are registered by making a connection there

between;

comparing means for obtaining a user identification of a person who requests a content

distribution from said registered user information table according to biometric feature

information of said person inputted from said user terminal, and for reading, according to said

user identification, terminal setup data regarding said person from said terminal personalization

setup data table; and

terminal personalization designating means for transmitting said terminal setup data read

from said terminal personalization setup data table to said user terminal.

48.   (currently amended): A content distribution server according to claim 47, wherein said

content distributed to said portable user terminal includes at least one of music data, software for

a video game, application software, and news items.

49.   (original): A content distribution server according to claim 47, wherein said biometric

feature information includes information regarding a fingerprint.

50.   (original): A content distribution server to which at least one user terminal is connected,

comprising:

a terminal personalization setup data table in which a user identification to identify a

user, biometric feature information of a user, a biometric feature identification to identify said

biometric feature information, and terminal setup data to personalize a user terminal are

registered by making a connection there between, said user identification, biometric feature

information, biometric feature identification, and terminal setup data being inputted from said

user terminal;

comparing means for obtaining a user identification and biometric feature information of

a person who requests a content distribution from said terminal personalization setup data table

according to biometric feature information of said person inputted from said user terminal, and

for reading, according to said user identification and biometric feature identification, terminal

setup data regarding said person from said terminal personalization setup data table; and

terminal personalization designating means for transmitting said terminal setup data read

from said terminal personalization setup data table to said user terminal.

51.   (currently amended): A content distribution server according to claim 50, wherein

said content distributed to said portable user terminal includes at least one of music data,

software for a video game, application software, and news items.

52.   (original): A content distribution server according to claim 50, wherein said

biometric feature information includes information regarding a fingerprint.

53.   (original): A user terminal including a biometric feature input means connected

via a network to a content distribution server, comprising:

fingerprint-feature storage means for, at the time of registration to said content

distribution server, storing user's biometric feature information inputted from said biometric

feature input means;

content accumulation/reproduction means for accumulating and reproducing a content

distributed from said content distribution server; and

comparing means for performing a comparison between biometric feature information of

a person who requests a content reproduction which has been inputted from said biometric

feature input means and said user's biometric feature information stored in said biometric feature

storage means, and for allowing said content accumulation/reproduction means to reproduce the

distributed content only when match is made as a result of said comparison.

54.   (original): A user terminal according to claim 53, further comprising a content

utilization transmission means for transmitting to said content distribution server, content

utilization information including at least specific information regarding a person who has

reproduced the content and information regarding said reproduced content.

55.   (currently amended): A user terminal according to claim 54, wherein said

distributed content includes at least one of music data, software for a video game, application

software, and news items.

56.   (original): A user terminal according to claim 54, wherein said biometric feature information includes information regarding a fingerprint.

57.   (currently amended): A ~~computer program product comprising a~~ computer ~~usable~~ readable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium for performing control of a content distribution system, said code means implemented on a content distribution server and a user terminal, and comprising instructions for ~~including~~:

~~computer readable program code means on a computer of content distribution server for~~ measuring a first biometric feature of a person who requests a content distribution;

~~computer readable program code means on a computer of content distribution server for~~ performing a first comparison between first information associated with said first biometric feature obtained by the measurement and second information associated with biometric features of registered users which have been previously registered;

~~computer readable program code means on a computer of content distribution server for~~ distributing a content only when match is made as a result of said first comparison;

~~computer readable program code means on a computer of user terminal for~~ measuring at the time of reproduction of the content distributed in said content distribution step, a second biometric feature of a person who requests a content reproduction;

~~computer readable program code means on a computer of user terminal for~~ performing a second comparison between third information associated with said second biometric feature obtained by the measurement and said first information; and

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~~computer readable program code means on a computer of user terminal for~~ allowing

reproduction of said content only when match is made as a result of said second comparison.

58.   (currently amended): A computer ~~program product comprising a computer~~

~~usable~~<u>readable</u> medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said

medium for performing control of a user terminal in a content distribution system, <u>said code</u>

<u>means comprising instructions for</u> ~~including~~:

          ~~computer readable program code means for~~ accumulating a content previously

distributed;

          ~~computer readable program code means for~~ requiring a person who requests a content

reproduction, to input a biometric feature at the time of reproduction, to input a biometric feature

at the time of reproduction of said accumulated content and for performing a comparing

processing for comparing biometric feature information of said person inputted in response to

said input request and biometric feature information of a registered user previously registered;

and

          ~~computer readable program code means for~~ allowing reproduction of said accumulated

content only when match is made as a result of said comparison.

59.   (currently amended): A computer ~~program product comprising a computer~~

~~usable~~<u>readable</u> medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said

medium for performing control of a content distribution system, <u>said code means comprising</u>

<u>instructions for</u> ~~including~~:

~~computer readable program code means on a computer of content distribution server for~~

registering a user identification to identify a user and biometric feature information of the user in

a registered user information table by making a connection there between, and for registering

terminal setup data to personalize a user terminal and said user identification in a terminal

personalization setup data table by making a connection there between;

~~computer readable program code means on a computer of content distribution server for~~

measuring biometric features of a person who requests a content distribution;

~~computer readable program code means on a computer of content distribution server for~~

acquiring a user identification of said person from said registered user information table

according to biometric feature information associated with said biometric feature obtained by

said measurement;

~~computer readable program code means on a computer of content distribution server for~~

reading terminal setup data regarding said person from said terminal personalization setup data

table, according to said user identification, and fop sending said terminal setup data; and

~~computer readable program code means on a computer of user terminal for~~ personalizing

a user's own terminal according to said terminal setup data sent from said content distribution

server.

60.   A computer ~~program product comprising a computer usable~~readable medium having

computer readable program code means embodied in said medium for performing control of a

content distribution system, <u>said code means implemented on a content distribution server and a</u>

<u>user terminal comprising instructions for</u> ~~including~~:

~~computer readable program code means on a computer of content distribution server for~~

registering a user identification to identify a user, biometric feature information of a user, a

biometric feature identification to identify said biometric feature information, and terminal setup

data to personalize a user terminal by making a connection there between;

~~computer readable program code means on a computer of content distribution server for~~

acquiring a user identification and biometric feature information of a person who requests a

content distribution from said terminal personalization setup data table according to biometric

feature information of said person obtained by measuring said person's biometric features;

~~computer readable program code means on a computer of content distribution server for~~

reading, according to said user identification and biometric feature identification, terminal setup

data regarding said person from said terminal personalization setup data table, and for sending

said terminal setup data; and

~~computer readable program code means on a computer of user terminal for~~ personalizing said

person's own terminal according to said terminal setup data received from said content

distribution server content previously distributed;

~~computer readable program code means for~~ requiring a person who requests a content

reproduction, to input a biometric feature at the time of reproduction of said accumulated content

and for performing a comparing processing for comparing biometric feature information of said

person inputted in response to said input request and biometric feature information of a

registered user previously registered; and

computer-readable program code means for allowing reproduction of said accumulated

content only when match is made as a result of said comparison.